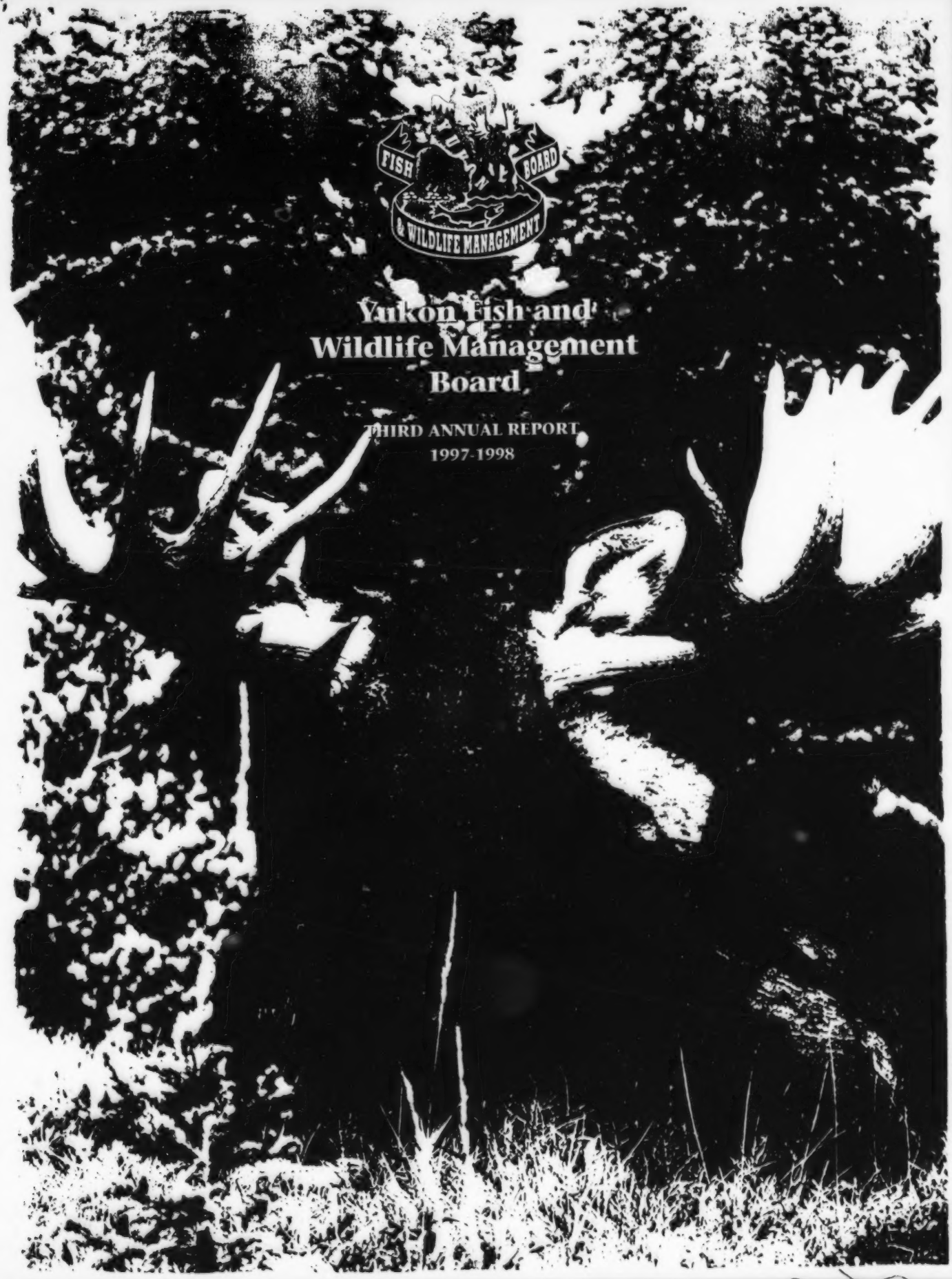

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

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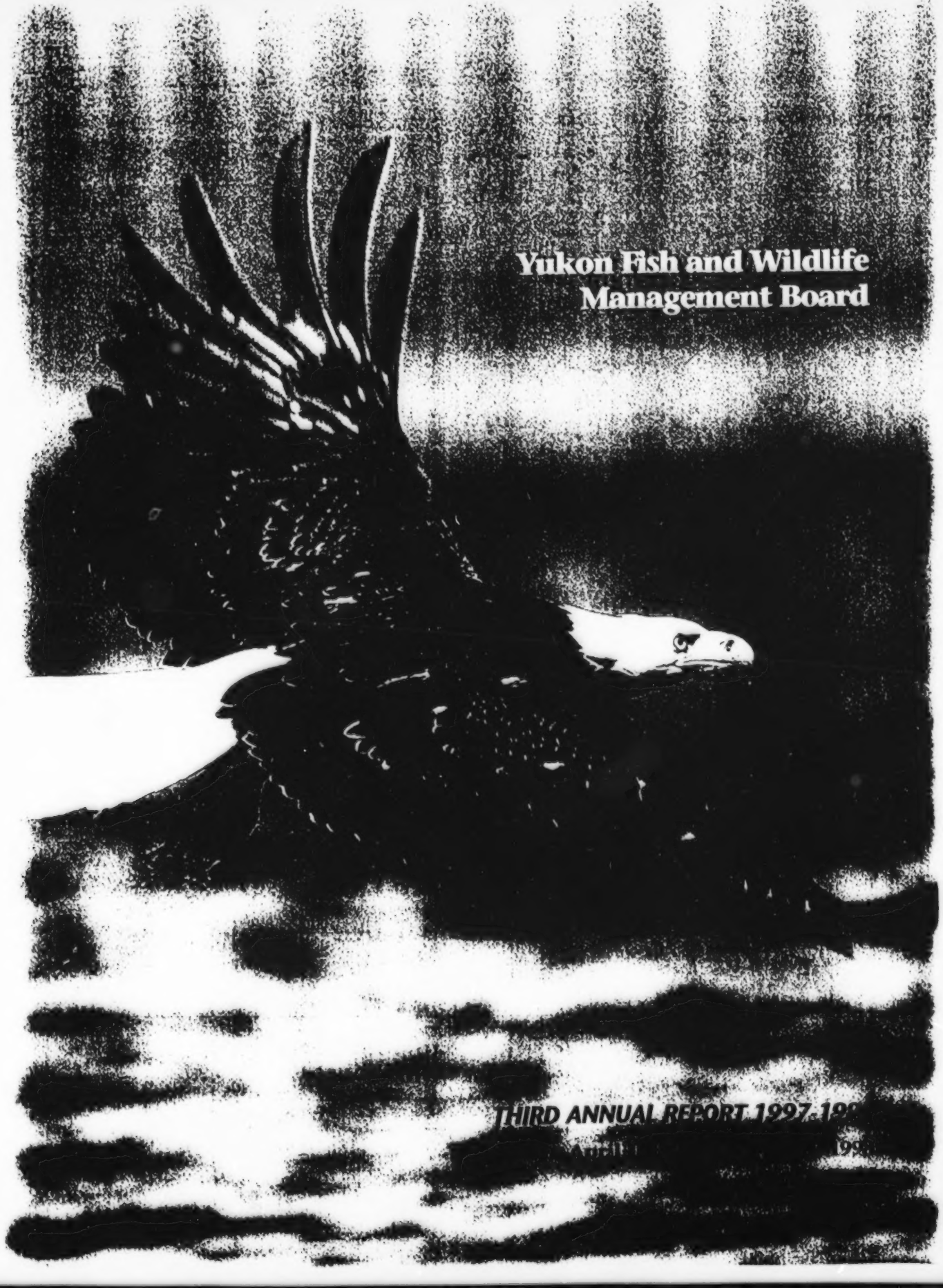

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Message from the Chair

Gerry Couture
Chair

Nobody said it was going to be easy

Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement sets out the rules that govern the management of wildlife in the Yukon. The negotiators did their best to design a new system. But there is a great difference between setting the rules and making them work. That's the challenge facing the Board.

The past year has seen the Board work hard to meet that challenge. It's been a year marked by some successes and also by some failures. Certainly its been the most controversial year in the Board's short life.

I have always believed that we should celebrate our successes. I think that we have had some this year. The proclamation of the Habitat Amendments to the Wildlife Act was the culmination of three years work by the Board. Equally important was the "Two Eyes One Vision" Traditional Knowledge Conference that showcased examples demonstrating that we can integrate traditional and scientific knowledge to achieve better management solutions. Other advances may not be so apparent but are equally important. The growth of more and more community input in to local management planning and the development of a more co-ordinated system between the Board, the Councils, First Nations and the Department of Renewable Resources to support and encourage that process has been gratifying. Perhaps the most important event occurred at the beginning of this year when the Board realized that it had got itself organized to the point where it could begin developing its own workplan. This allowed us to begin dealing with some of those big problems that so far no one has had the resources (or the courage) to tackle. Access Management and Catch and Release Fishing have bedevilled us since the Board was formed but we are now in the process of working on these big difficult issues.

Which brings me back to controversy. Yukoners have strongly held diverse views about how Wildlife in the Territory should be managed. It's the Board's job to work its way through those differing views and recommend management solutions that are in the "public interest." Controversy is bound to occur. It's healthy that it does occur. The Board must know how all sectors of the Yukon population feel and what they know in order to develop recommendations that will be in the public's interest. Its never an easy job, but its always interesting!

We haven't always succeeded. Perhaps the greatest failure to date is that we have not yet communicated to the public clearly and simply how the system and the Board work. There is much to be done on this issue. We'll have to try harder.

In closing this message I would like to acknowledge some of the people who have given much to this process. In particular Don Toews, the former Acting Director of Wildlife, has demonstrated patience, skill and a commitment that really helped us get on with the job. He has been a good advisor to the Board.

The Board Staff members have worked hard to keep us organized so that we can focus on the big questions. Their commitment has been remarkable.

Board Members will be the first to admit that this year has sometimes been difficult. Their respect for each other and tolerance for differing views along with devotion to getting the job done has allowed us to get through some sessions that were often filled with controversy and on occasion led to tears. Like the public, the Board in itself reflects many diverse and strongly held views. All the Board Members have worked hard and from time to time even had some fun doing the job.

Finally I'd like to thank those members of the public who came forward to participate in the process. We need your input. I encourage all Yukoners to take part at both the local Renewable Resource Council level and in the Board process. The system will not work without you.

Lawrence Joe

Vice-Chair
Dec. 19, 1997 - Dec. 19, 2002
5 years

"The challenge is to be inclusive of the views of all Yukoners while building partnerships based on an understanding of our strengths."

Art Johns

Dec. 20 1994 - Dec. 19, 1999
5 years

"The most important thing is fish and wildlife. I feel that things are going to fall apart, fish and wildlife is what will keep us going, technology and minerals will not fill our bellies. So, let's look after it. It's everyone's job."

Roger Alfred

20, 1994 - Dec. 19, 1998
4 years

"With everything going in disarray out on the land today, it would be very good if we, the Yukon people, can pull off the principles of chapter 16 of the umbrella final agreement to fulfil the goals and objectives of 'Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow'

Bruce Charlie

Dec. 20, 1994 - Dec. 19, 1998
4 years

"Over the past year we have taken the initiative to talk about Traditional Ecological Knowledge with other Yukoners. The First Nations have so much to offer in this area. While traditional and scientific knowledge systems are each unique, they are also complementary. This partnership will not only enhance fish and wildlife research and management functions but will increase respect for contributions to be made by all people. I hope governments, organizations, and individuals continue to pursue discussions, meetings, workshops, and research for the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats".

Georgina Sydney

Dec. 20, 1994 - Dec. 19, 1999
5 years

"The welfare of fish, wildlife and their habitat is the responsibility of ALL Yukon people. Conservation and preservation must be the underlying factor in accomplishing this responsibility. This will also ensure the conservation and preservation of ALL our future generations in the Yukon. In order for us to realize this goal we need the co-operation from all the Yukon people, to participate in the public forums that are initiated, for example the Protected areas strategy, also the public forums which are scheduled in the fall by the YFWMB.

We need assistance so that all people have input into the changes that are occurring. The Umbrella Final Agreement gives the people the right to be heard. No where else in Canada is this privilege exercised"

Joe Johnson

Dec. 19, 1997 - Dec. 19, 2002
5 years

"Conservation is very important to the Yukon people. In the future, we are blazing the trail for the rest of Canada because the RRC and the Board, and the government and how they are working together to achieve a management structure which involves all the people in the communities. The communities have a say in how the policies are shaped through the RRC's."

Yukon Territorial Government Members

Douglas Urquhart

Dec. 19, 1997 - Dec. 19, 2002
5 years

"With traditional knowledge as a partner with science and harvest monitoring for all Yukon hunters, we will finally be able to manage fish and wildlife with both eyes and both hands".

Shirley Ford

Dec. 20 1994 - Dec. 19, 1999
5 years

"After serving on the Board for more than three years I feel we are making progress and are better informed regarding the wildlife concerns of the public".

James Close

Dec. 20, 1994 - Dec. 19, 1998
4 years

Tess Madigan

Dec. 19, 1997 - Dec. 19, 2002
5 years

"As a resident of the Yukon for the past 10 years, the wilderness that surrounds me serves as a constant reminder that we are but a small part of the intricate ecosystems we all cherish. In every discussion we have and every decision we make at the Board, the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats, both for their own and for our future generations must always be foremost in our minds."

Charles Stricker

Dec. 20, 1994 - Dec. 19, 1998
4 years

"Well, another year has passed and we are asked to comment on the status of the YFWMB. As I pointed out in last years report, I feel very strongly that the White Portion of the Yukon population is not being represented fairly in regards to game management. I am of the opinion that we are forced to manage more for political, emotional and private agenda's rather than for good sound biological reasons. We need to move towards good sound biological management and the Native and Non-Native folks have to pull together to join forces to perpetuate and enhance game population and habitat. Rather than sitting back debating who's going to harvest the last animal. It was very encouraging to see all parties come together to work on the wolf management plan in Ross River area. It was good to see the YFWMB endorse the Outfitter/ Trapper incentive program on wolf management. It is these types of programs that will benefit all Yukoners rather than the closures to the sport hunters. Another example is where we spend hours as a board discussing closing down the sport hunter to hunting caribou in the rut. Then we have a biologist give us a presentation on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. In his presentation he tells us that of the 160,000 caribou, 25,000 dies in their first months as calves. Here is a place we need to find out the answers why they are dying rather than taking the Ho Hum attitude. If we could save some of those calves in any herd, then we wouldn't have to worry about the harvest. That's the way I see it".

Pearl Callaghan
Executive Director

May 8, 1996 to present

"In the past year, the Board has handled a number of matters, issues and concerns brought to them from individuals, organizations, and governments on the conservation and preservation of fish, wildlife and their habitat. The process involves a lot of work, research and consultation. It is my job to weave the thread through all of this and to provide something that is material. I couldn't do this without the Chair, Board members and my staff and I want to thank them. I also want to give special thanks to Don Toews, A/Director for YTG Fish and Wildlife for his assistance and input over the past few years.

We have also provided assistance and information to a number of the UFA Boards and RRC's in their administrative setup. We consider this an honour and our door is always open to provide help".

Lucille Jack
Office Manager

Oct. 2, 1995 to present

"I have been employed with the Board for over two years and as the years pass I recognize that the Board's objectives become more challenging, this makes the management of the budget more complex.

It is nice to see more members of the public come to the office inquiring about the Board's operations. In our assistance of other Boards, we are at the same time getting ideas on how the Board can operate more effectively".

Don Toews
A/Director, YTG Fish and Wildlife Branch

"It is OUR survival that is dependent on healthy and productive natural systems and fish and wildlife populations."

Habitat Protection Police

Kheil Davies, Teslin, Yukon

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

1. What is the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board?

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was established in February of 1995, when the four First Nation Final Agreements and the Umbrella Final Agreement were signed into effect. The Board consists of twelve members: six are recommended by Yukon First Nations and six by the Government of the Yukon. The Minister of Renewable Resources appoints the Board members.

The parties to the Yukon Final Agreement are:

1. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and

2. The Government of the Yukon as represented by the Government Leader of the Yukon on behalf of the Yukon and

3. The Yukon First Nations as represented by the Chairperson of the Council for Yukon First Nations.

The Board is identified by the Agreements as the **"primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife Management in the Yukon"** and works in partnership with the established Renewable Resources Councils in each of the Traditional Territories recognized by the Agreements, and with the Yukon First Nations governments.

The Board exercises its "primary" role on issues that affect fish, wildlife, habitat and users territory-wide. The Renewable Resources Councils play the "primary" role on matters that are specific to their Traditional Territories.

Governments are responsible for day to day fish and wildlife management and enforcement of laws. They gather information on fish and wildlife resources and

design management approaches based on their analyses.

The Board relies primarily on its partners for technical information, advice and local and traditional knowledge on fish and wildlife matters.

The Agreement directs all Governments, the Board, and Renewable Resource Councils to consult with Yukon people on fish and wildlife matters.

The Board focuses its efforts on the policies, legislation and protective measures to protect habitat and guide management of fish and wildlife for today and the future.

The Board influences management decisions in relation to wildlife issues through public education and by recommendations to Yukon, Federal, and Yukon First Nation Governments. Recommendations are based on a combination of the best technical and traditional/local information available to it.

2. Objectives of the Board

The objectives of the Board are laid out in Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement as follows:

16.1.1.1 to ensure Conservation in the management of all Fish and Wildlife resources and their Habitats;

16.1.1.2 to preserve and enhance the renewable resources economy;

16.1.1.3 to preserve and enhance the culture, identity and values of Yukon Indian people;

16.1.1.4 to ensure the equal participation of Yukon Indian people with other Yukon residents in Fish and Wildlife Management processes and decisions;

16.1.1.5 to guarantee the rights of Yukon Indian People to harvest and the rights of Yukon First Nations to manage renewable resources on Settlement Land;

16.1.1.6 to integrate the management of all renewable resources;

16.1.1.7 to integrate the relevant knowledge and experience both of Yukon Indian People and of the scientific communities in order to achieve Conservation;

16.1.1.8 to develop responsibilities for renewable resource management at the community level;

16.1.1.9 to honour the Harvesting and Fish and Wildlife management customs of Yukon Indian People and to provide for the Yukon Indian People's ongoing needs for Fish and Wildlife;

16.1.1.10 to deal fairly with all Yukon residents who use Fish and Wildlife resources in the Yukon; and

16.1.1.11 to enhance and promote the full participation of Yukon Indian People in renewable resources management.

3. Salmon Sub-Committee

The Salmon Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. This Sub-Committee was established as the main instrument of salmon management in the Yukon. The Salmon Sub-Committee is composed of two representatives from the Board, plus two appointees each from the Yukon, Alsek, and Porcupine River drainages. The Minister also makes two appointees to the Sub-Committee.

The Salmon Sub-Committee members are:

Carl Sidney, Chair, Yukon River
Gerry Couture, Vice-Chair, YFWMB
Roger Alfred - YFWMB
Steve Taylor - Yukon River
Frances Wellar - Alsek River
Chuck Hume - Alsek River
William Josie - Porcupine River
Stanley Njootli - Porcupine River
Llewellyn Johnson - Minister Appointee, Domestic Fishery
Joni Mackinnon - Minister Appointee, Sport Fishery
Gordon Zealand - Executive Secretary

The Salmon Sub-Committee is described in the UFA, Chapter 16.7.17 to 16.7.20. The Salmon Sub-Committee issues a separate annual report.

Their address is: 100-419 Range Road, Whitehorse, YK Y1A 3B1, phone: 867-393-6719, fax: 867-393-6738.

Proposed Regulation Changes for 1998

Background

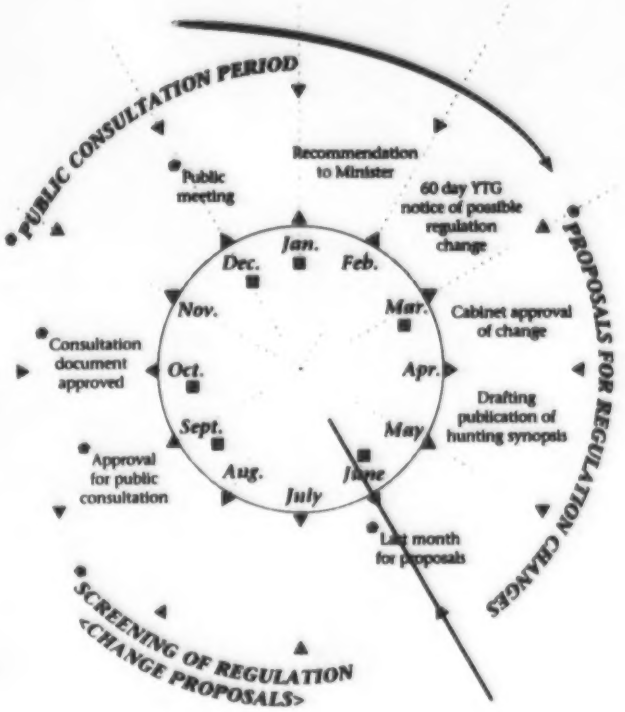
One of the principle functions of the Board is to provide public input to wildlife management through consultations on proposed regulation changes. While the majority of changes are usually presented by the Department of Renewable Resource, it is important to note that any member of the Yukon public can propose a regulation change. All proposals must undergo a screening and review process (Appendix B) which takes approximately one year to complete. See diagram below.

Consultation

In November of 1997, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board published a booklet outlining ten proposals for changes to the Yukon Wildlife Regulations and the Yukon Territory Fishery Regulations. There were seven proposals from the Government of Yukon, one from the Yukon Fish and Game Association, one from the Alsek Renewable Resources Council, and one from the Teslin Renewable Resources Council.

The booklet was available to the public November 1, 1997. The proposed regulation changes were advertised both on the radio and the Yukon News in November and December 1997. A four -page advertisement containing the complete proposals ran in November in the Yukon News. The deadline date for responses was December 15, 1997.

Public meetings were held at 7:00 p.m. on December 10th and 11th, 1997 at the Riverview Hotel. At those meetings each proposal was fully explained by the proponent and members of the public were given full opportunity to comment. In addition the Board accepted written submissions until December 15, 1997 on all proposals.



● *One year previous to possible regulation change*

■ *Usually scheduled Board meetings*

Summary of Responses:

Prior to the formal public consultation phase, the

Board process requires that *first level* consultation be carried out in the development of proposals. This ensures that the proponents confer with affected stakeholders to consult and develop solutions.

Following the public consultation period, public responses were reviewed and summarized in the document *Summary Analysis of Regulation Proposals*. The Board wishes to thank the Government of Yukon for allowing it to use the services of the Executive Council Office to supervise the development of this summary.

Summary of Proposed Regulation Changes with the Board's Recommendations and the Minister's Response

On February 1, 1998 the Board made the following recommendations to the Minister of Renewable Resources for his approval to make the proposed regulation changes for 1998:

Proposal #1

New High Quality Management Waters

This proposal by the Department of Renewable Resources would conserve fish stocks and maintain the fishing quality in Watson, Braeburn, Tagish, Blind, Jim Cook, Glenlyon, Tay and Poisson lakes. To do so this proposal would designate these waterbodies as High Quality Management Waters.

The Board's Recommendation:

That the following special regulations be implemented for Watson Lake, Braeburn Lake, Tagish Lake, Blind Lake, Jim Cook Lake, Glenlyon Lake, Tay Lake and Poisson Lake.

1. *These waters be restricted to barbless hooks only.*
2. *Lake Trout*
   - *Daily catch and possession limit: 2*
   - *Slot limit: All lake trout between 65 and 100 cm (26 to 39 in.) in length must be released.*
   - *Maximum size limit: Only one lake trout in the daily catch or possession may be longer than 100 cm (39 in.)*
3. *Arctic grayling*
   - *Daily catch and possession limit: 4*
   - *Slot limit: All grayling between 40 and 48 cm (16 to 19 in.) in length must be released.*
   - *Maximum size limit: Only one grayling in the daily catch or possession may be longer than 48 cm (19 in.)*
4. *Northern pike*
   - *Daily catch and possession limit: 4*
   - *Slot limit: All pike between 75 cm and 105 cm (30 to 41 in.) in length must be released.*
   - *Maximum size limit: Only one pike in the daily catch or possession may be longer than 105 cm (41 in.)*
5. *All other species be subject to the general catch and possession limits.*

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

During the consultation process it became apparent that neither the public, nor the Board have a clear understanding of the term "High Quality Management" and the Board suggests that the Department make clear to both the public and the Board what this strategy means.

The Board is concerned that the practice of live release fishing involved in the High Quality Management strategy may be causing more fish mortality than necessary. There is a need to increase education of all fishermen on the proper technique of live release fishing.

Proposal #2

Granite Lake: Live Release of Rainbow Trout

To ensure full protection of the small and rare population of native rainbow trout in the Kathleen River system, the Department of Renewable Resources proposed expansion of the regulation requiring the release of all rainbow trout in the Kathleen River to include Granite Lake.

The Board's Recommendation:

That the live release of rainbow trout be implemented in Granite Lake to bring it in line with the regulations of the Kathleen River system.

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

The Board noted that there might be a need to monitor and consider the effects of rainbow trout fishing on other fish stocks in the lake. The Board has requested the Alsek Renewable Resources Council to review the effects of this and provide information to the Board.

The Board and public are concerned that the opening of a cabin at Granite Lake, and the opening of a trail to this lake, associated with that cabin, has increased access to the lake. The Board requested from the Department complete information about this.

Proposal #3

Single Barbless Hooks on Dezadeash Lake

To conserve lake trout stocks in Dezadeash Lake, the Department of Renewable Resources proposed the use of single barbless hooks only in this lake.

The Board's Recommendation:

That the use of single barbless hooks only be implemented on Dezadeash Lake.

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

During deliberation on this proposal it came to the Board's attention that increasing fishing pressure in the bay areas on Dezadeash Lake may be causing conservation problems for this stock of lake trout. The Board will work with the Alsek Renewable Resources Council and requested that they investigate this problem and develop a management plan for this lake. The Board requested the Department's cooperation with the Alsek RRC in this matter.

Proposal #4

Extended Season for the Moose Permit Hunt in Subzones 7-01 to 7-12

The Alsek Renewable Resources Council of Haines Junction proposed that the present extended hunt dates of November 1st through to December 31st (see page 8 of the Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary) be extended further from November 1st through to March 31st for moose in Subzones 7-01 through 7-12 which fall within their Traditional Territory. This proposal would create additional hunting opportunities for resident hunters within Champagne/Aishihik Traditional Territory, while not exceeding the existing harvest limits.

After long deliberation the Board found that it could not make a clear recommendation on this proposal.

The Board's Recommendation:

Notwithstanding the Board's inability to make a recommendation on this proposal, the Board supports community level planning and decision making [illegible] Renewable Resources Councils.

Minister's response: The department will extend the availability of sundry permits after December 31, 1998 if the allocation of 10 moose has not been harvested at that time. This practice, as with the present extended moose harvest during November and December, will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and adjustments made if necessary.

During the deliberation it became apparent that some members of the Board had the same concerns as some members of the public. For example, use of snowmobiles for hunting in late winter, quality of meat of bull moose at this time of year, differentiating of sex of moose at this time of year, and setting a precedent for extension of moose hunting seasons. At the same time, other members of the Board did not have the same concerns and felt the proposal was a good one. It is apparent that this proposal has strong local support but not as strong Yukon-wide support.

Proposal #5

Permit Hunt for Goats in Subzones 7-10 to 7-12 and 7-28

The Yukon Fish and Game Association proposed that two

permits for goats in each of Subzones 7-12 and 7-28 plus two permits combined for Subzones 7-10 and 7-11 (a total of six permits) be issued. The Department of Renewable Resources indicated that the goat population in Subzones 7-10, 7-11, 7-12 and 7-28 can support a limited harvest. Currently there are limited opportunities for goat hunting in the Yukon. This proposal provides more opportunity for goat hunting in the Yukon to accommodate both resident and nonresident hunters.

The Board's Recommendation:

That two goat hunting permits be allowed in each of subzones 7-12 and 7-28, and two permits combined for subzones 7-10 and 7-11 (a combined total of six permits).

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

Before implementation the concerns of the Champagne/Aishihik First Nation about First Nation's harvest and the size of goat populations in this area must be dealt with.

Proposal #6

New Wolf Hunting Regulations

The Department of Renewable Resources would like to fully implement the wolf harvest recommendations from the 1992 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan by setting new wolf hunting regulations that reflect the value of this species as a big game animal. To do this, it proposed to 1) lower the bag limit for nonresidents hunters from three wolves to two, 2) shorten the wolf hunting season by ending it on March 31 instead of June 15, and 3) require hunters to buy a wolf tag before hunting this species.

The Board's Recommendation:

1. That the wolf bag limit for nonresidents hunters be lowered from three wolves to two.

2. That the wolf hunting season be shortened by ending it on March 31st instead of June 15th.

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

The Board has decided not to recommend the implementation of the requirement to buy tags before hunting wolves at this time. It has been brought to the Board's attention that there are concerns among First Nations that this type of regulation would affect the traditional practices of First Nations hunters. The Board intends to look into a resolution of this problem before it finalizes a recommendation on a tagging system. In the meantime, the Board recommended that the practice of requiring wolf pelts to be sealed is left in place.

The Board realizes that for some stakeholders the lack of a requirement to pre-buy tags for wolf hunting may not meet the full spirit and intent of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. Once the problem referred to above is resolved, this proposal may be revisited.

Proposal #7

Require Hunters to Present Wolf Pelts for Sealing.

The Department of Renewable Resources would like to improve its harvest records for wolves by requiring hunters to present their wolf pelt to government for sealing before the pelts are sold or transferred to another person.

The Board's Recommendation:

That the requirement for hunters to present wolf pelts to government for sealing before the pelts are sold or transferred to another person be implemented.

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

Some members of the Board felt that this requirement would partially meet the intent of the Wolf Conservation Management Plan.

Proposal #8

Prohibit the Use of Vehicles for Hunting In Game Management Subzone 5-34

The Department of Renewable Resources would like to ensure that sheep in the East Kluane area are adequately protected from disturbance, harassment and over-harvesting which can result from the use of off-road vehicles. To do this, it proposed to expand

current restrictions on vehicle use to include Subzone 5-34.

The Board's Recommendation:

That the use of all terrain vehicles for the purposes of hunting be restricted in Game Management Subzone 5-34.

Minister's response: Approve proposal as recommended.

During deliberations other concerns on access management came to the Board which it will address as part of its work on management of off road vehicle impacts on fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Proposal #9

Registration Hunt for Finlayson Caribou Herd in Game Management Zones 10 And 11

The Department of Renewable Resources proposed a registration/permit hunt of the Finlayson Caribou Herd in Subzones 11-02 to 11-18, 11-20 to 11-23, 10-05 to 10-09, and 10-17 to 10-19.

In arriving at a recommendation the Board took into account not only this proposal but also a parallel proposal by the Ross River Dena Council and the Draft Management Plan for the Finlayson area developed under the MOU between the YTG Department of Renewable Resources and the Ross River Dena Council. In it's discussions; the Board came to realize that the solution to the Finlayson problem requires a more holistic approach.

The Board's Recommendation:

1. That a registration/permit hunt for non-First Nation hunters for Finlayson caribou be implemented in Game Management Subzones 11-02 to 11-18, 11-20 to 11-23, 10-05 to 10-09, 10-17 to 10-19.

2. That the Government of Yukon and the Ross River Dena Council, using best traditional, local, and technical knowledge, collaborate to determine the harvestable number of Finlayson caribou and then develop the number of permits that can be allocated to non-First Nation hunters.

3. That the Department of Renewable Resources provide resources and technical support to allow a locally developed wolf management program as outlined in the locally initiated Ross River Management Plan.

4. That the Department of Renewable Resources provide resources and cooperate with the Ross River Dena Council in establishing a game guardian program as outlined in the locally initiated Ross River Management Plan.

5. That the Department work with the Ross River Dena Council and the Government of Canada to provide appropriate habitat protection for key habitat areas of the Finlayson Caribou herd, including regulating industry activities as required.

Minister's response: Approve proposals as recommended.

Recognizing that the success of this program depends upon significant cooperation and compliance by First Nation hunters from outside the Ross River Dena Council traditional territory, the Board also recommended:

That the Government of Yukon and other First Nations work with the Ross River Dena Council to ensure that all Yukoners are made fully aware of this program and it's importance.

The Board passed this last recommendation directly to the Council for Yukon First Nations, the Ross River Dena Council and other Yukon First Nations.

Proposal #10

Sheep Hunting Closure in Game Management Subzone 8-27

This proposal originated in October 1995, when a Teslin resident sent it to the Department of Renewable Resources. In November 1995 the Department brought it to the Board's attention. Subsequently, the Board decided that this was essentially a matter for the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, and the Board's concern be confined to ensuring that Section 16.7.12.3. of the

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR IMPASSIONED SPEECH ABOUT THE WILDERNESS." YOU SAVED THIS UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS AREA!!
YES' YOU ARE THE HERO OF THE DAY!!
YOU CRAZY FOOL!! YOU JUST LOCKED UP A TREASURE OF RESOURCES AND THE CHANCE FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE NORTH"
ONE CANNOT WALK ON WATER ON ALL LAKES"

Umbrella Final Agreement is applied, that is, that all users of wildlife in Yukon are treated fairly in arriving at a recommendation.

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council recommended to the Minister on September 5, 1997, that the proposal be implemented. Subsequently, the Minister passed this proposal to the Board for its review and "to undertake public consultation as appropriate".

After publishing the proposal in its fall public consultation package the Board was informed on December 2, 1997 that the Teslin Renewable Resources Council had rescinded it's recommendation.

Since the Minister's office indicated that it still wished the public consultation to take place. The Board addressed this proposal at its public meeting of December 12, 1997.

Consistent with it's policy of encouraging development of management planning and decision making at the local level for local concerns, the Board did not make a recommendation on this proposal. However, the Board considers that consultation on this proposal has been complete and fair. The results of the consultation were passed to the Minister and these results were also sent to the Teslin Renewable Resources Council.

The Board's Recommendation:

The Board leaves this matter to the Minister and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council for final disposition.

Minister's response: I support this proposal and the local process used to develop the proposal which included extensive public consultation and the utilization of technical, traditional and local knowledge. Staff from my department will be meeting with the Teslin Renewable Resources Council to discuss and resolve outstanding concerns. When this is done, the department will proceed with implementation after a 60 day public review of the regulation proposal.

Board Working Groups

A. Access Management

Based on comments from individuals, organizations, Renewable Resources Councils and governments, the Board has concluded that increased vehicular access to all areas throughout the Yukon is a significant fish and wildlife management problem. In cooperation with the Department of Renewable Resources and Renewable Resources Councils the Board has established an Access Management Working Group.

As access management is such a wide-ranging topic, the scope of the Group has been limited to deal specifically with the impacts of off-road vehicles on fish and wildlife and their habitats.

The Committee hired a contractor to contact First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, communities and interest groups to identify and document issues and concerns about impacts of off-road vehicles on wildlife and their habitats, and potential solutions for these problems.

Following this initial contact, it is planned to hold a three-day workshop with representatives from First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, YTG, and various interest groups to produce a set of management recommendations for further consideration by the Board. There will also be extensive public consultation and continued public involvement before the Board forwards any such recommendations to the Minister.

B. Bison Management Plan

In February 1997, YTG provided a draft Yukon Bison Management Plan to the Board with a request to conduct a public review. In response the Board established a Bison Management Plan working group which arranged for a workshop held in November 1997.

Included in the workshop discussions were Champagne and Aishihik and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Alsek RRC, Canadian Wildlife Service, the Yukon Outfitters Association, the Yukon Conservation Society and members of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. At the workshop each Bison management issue was addressed through a five-year action plan.

A separate meeting was held in December to discuss harvest and allocation. In order to provide some experience in harvesting Bison, the Board made a recommendation to the Minister to harvest six bison in the winter of 1998. In cooperation with Champagne/Aishihik and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nations, and YTG, the Yukon Fish and Game Association offered five of the permits in a public lottery to

generate revenues for the bison impact study required by the plan. As well, one permit was allocated to a local outfitter to auction with the proceeds going to the impact study.

The Board put the Bison Management Plan out for public review in February and hosted public meetings. The results are scheduled for discussion and final recommendations to the Minister at the Board's June, 1998 meeting.

C. Catch And Release

Over the past several years, whenever planning exercises are taking place for the management of fish and wildlife in the Yukon, the question of catch and release fishing and it's acceptability as a management tool is raised. As a result of this continuing concern, the Board decided to include an analysis of this management tool in its 1997/98 work-plan.

Consequently, the Board has appointed a working group to begin this study and develop a process for public consultation. The working group reported that they had commissioned, through the Enhancement Trust a review of mortality rates associated with the catch and release practice as it relates to Yukon fish stocks. They have also engaged a contractor to develop a summary of the importance of fish harvesting to Yukon First Nations and their respect for the resource. The working group will also gather information on the importance of sport fishing opportunities to all Yukoners and of the contribution that sport fishing makes to the Yukon economy.

Recognizing the diversity of strongly held views on this subject; the Board is committed to a long-term territory-wide public consultation. This will help to develop policies and guidelines that will assist conservation and management of fish stocks for future generations while recognizing the need to provide high quality opportunities for sport fishing and fish harvesting.

D. Communications

A Board working group summarized present communications methods employed by the Board as follows:

Public communications that the Board currently employs are the annual report, public meetings, press releases, media interviews with the Chair, assistance with regulation proposals, special project videos, Open House, and public service announcements.

Communication with governments are accomplished through the annual report, exchanging correspondence, providing minutes of Board meetings, informal contact, technical advice, co-hosting workshops, participating in Management Plans, meetings, and participation on committees.

Communication with Special groups occur via the annual report, providing the agenda and minutes of Board meetings, exchanging correspondence, hosting annual meetings with the Renewable Resources Councils, reporting on specific activities, collaborating on fact finding, assisting with regulation proposals, and assisting with public communication.

The working group is tasked with recommending improvements for communication in each of these categories and such changes will be implemented on an on-going basis.

E. Harvest Monitoring

A key component of cooperative integrated wildlife management plans is accurate harvest monitoring. In recognition of this the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources hosted a workshop in June 1997 which was attended by the Department and the Board, RRC's, First

Nations, Parks Canada, and the Tetlit Gwitchin Department of Renewable Resources to discuss First Nations harvest reporting. Consensus was reached on the value of wildlife management and implementing one coordinated system of harvest monitoring for all wildlife harvesting in the Yukon. It was also agreed that a Harvest Monitoring Working Group should be struck and that it would initiate a process to seek public input and produce a proposal for a coordinated harvest monitoring system. The Board informed the Minister that the Board was willing to take the lead on this group. The Minister's support was received in February 1998 with a commitment for funding and Department time.

In March 1998, a contractor was hired to gather information from other jurisdictions and on past and present harvest monitoring by Yukon First Nations.

The Board has also prepared a timetable for the implementation of a universal Harvest Monitoring Program by the fall of 2000. A meeting of the group is scheduled for September 1998.

F. Habitat Protection

Habitat protection has been an outstanding issue. For many years the Board has worked with government on development of a legal framework under the *Wildlife Act* to protect wildlife habitat.

As a result of the Board's persistence, the Habitat Protection provisions in the 1992 Act to amend the *Wildlife Act* were proclaimed on January 29, 1998. This enables designation and management of Habitat Protection Areas through regulations under the *Wildlife Act*.

The Board, RRC's and government of Yukon are presently working on the regulatory process to give force to this legislation. This process will allow steps to be taken to identify potential habitat protection areas, select areas needing protection, and decide on the kind of protection needed. The process will allow consultation with the RRC's, the Board, governments, and other environmental and industry partners. This process will be coordinated with the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, but is meant essentially to stand alone as a management tool.

G. Killing of Fish and Wildlife for Survival

Under section 16.13.3 of the UFA, the Board is required to develop a reporting system for fish and wildlife killed in emergency situations for survival. In September 1996 the Board established a working group to review this matter and acquire enough information for the Board to make a recommendation to the government and the 14 First Nations. The working group met the CYFN leadership in January 1998 regarding the process for consultation where it was agreed that the Board will coordinate development of proposals, consultation with First Nations and YTG, until an agreed solution is found.

In February the working group provided a draft proposal to all the First Nations regarding means of reporting the killing of fish and wildlife for survival.

H. Mandatory Hunter Training

The Board received a proposal in February 1997 from the Yukon Fish & Game Association concerning mandatory hunter training for all first time hunters. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board has made the same proposal directly to the Minister. In his response, the Minister expressed interest in this suggestion, noting, however, the need to identify who should take responsibility for training and how this would apply to First Nations.

In order to fully address this matter the Board has established a working group to look at all aspects of mandatory hunter training for First Nations and non-First Nations.

I. Operating Procedures

Over the past two years the Board has been developing a detailed set of operating procedures incorporating aspects of the Carver Model where appropriate. This task is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1998 and will be available as a reference for other UFA Boards and Committees.

J. Meat Management By Outfitting Concessions

Members of the public often bring to the Board their concerns about the proper management of meat by outfitting concession. In addition, the RRC's have recommended that the Board undertake to produce a set of guidelines and recommendations for regulation of meat management by outfitting concessions in the Yukon. To do so, the RRC's suggested that the Board convene a working group with representation including, but not limited to, the Yukon Territorial Government, the RRC's and the outfitting industry.

At the Yukon RRC Annual Workshop in Mayo on

November 27-29, 1997 a joint resolution was made by the Alsek RRC, Little Salmon/Carmacks RRC, Mayo RRC, Teslin RRC, and Vuntut Gwitchin RRC on Meat Care. This resolution was presented to the Yukon Outfitters Association at the YOA General Assembly on December 4, 1997. The resolution pointed out that the outfitting industry should work with the Yukon Government, the RRC's and the Board to provide policies and guidelines that will ensure proper meat handling by outfitting concessions, and that the RRC's support the efforts of individual councils to address improper meat care in their own Traditional Territory.

On February 3, 1998 the Board received a letter from the Director of Field Services, Renewable Resources giving examples from other jurisdictions. In general, Canadian jurisdictions do not have any specific meat care conditions and legislation with the exception of the NWT which is in the process of developing some licensing conditions.

A Working Group has been set up, consisting of one representative each from the Board and the RRC's. In addition, the Yukon Outfitters Association has been asked to appoint a member to this working group. The Outfitter Meat Management Working Group will be tasked with (1) working on the perception of outfitter meat wastage, and (2) developing Terms of Reference and a schedule for carrying out duties related to proper meat management.

K. Outfitter Qualifications

Some time ago the Minister of Renewable Resources asked the Board to look into the matter of Outfitter Qualifications. A Board working group developed some preliminary ideas that were presented to the Department of Justice to see if they were legally possible. It is necessary that any changes to Outfitter Qualifications fit the corporate structure of the outfitting industry.

The YFWMB Draft Outfitter Qualification Option's paper, prepared by the YTG Field Services Branch, was presented to the Board at their December meeting. It was then agreed that someone intimately involved with the Yukon Outfitters Association and who knew the legal problems that Outfitters face should review the paper. A lawyer fitting this description completed the review for the Yukon Outfitters Association. In the report he summarized the relevant existing provisions of the Act and analyzed those provisions in relation to the practices, principals and requirements of the modern business world, including the applicability of tax laws and the necessity to preserve the ability to operate an outfitting business through the medium of a corporation. He also outlined some of the real world business, economic and financial difficulties that are common to the Yukon outfitting industry.

At their meeting in Mayo in November 1997, the Renewable Resources Councils brought a recommendation to the Department of Renewable Resources and the Board. They recommended that the Department and the Board, in consultation with the RRC's and First Nations, determine what qualifications are necessary for the ownership of an outfitting concession in the Yukon and further to make such qualifications a mandatory requirement for ownership. Since then, a new working group has been formed and all information has been passed to this working group for further review.

The report still has a lot of work to be done and is still in the first level of consultation. No final proposals have been developed. To allow for any major changes for Outfitter Qualifications, the Wildlife Act has to be amended. The Government of Yukon has stated that this is not possible in the short-term. The Board will continue to work on this item until it develops a proposal that can be brought to the public for review.

AND OUR PROJECT WILL INCORPORATE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE!
GREAT! YEAH! GREAT!
REALLY GREAT!
BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE?
IT'S GREAT! YEAH! GREAT!
REALLY GREAT!

L. Three-year Residency Requirements

A proposal to extending the residency requirements for Yukon hunters was brought to the Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch in November 1995. In 1996 the Board formed a working group to look at this matter. The working group was tasked to do a complete report with recommendations on the residency requirements including information in other jurisdictions. Any change to the present 1 year residency requirement will require an amendment to the Wildlife Act.

M. Traditional Knowledge

When the Umbrella Final Agreement came into effect in February 1995, it established a legal requirement for many resource management processes to incorporate traditional knowledge at all levels of discussion and decision making. With respect to fish and wildlife management, the UFA objective is to, "integrate the relevant knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People and of the scientific communities to achieve Conservation [of fish and wildlife resources]." In attempting to fulfil this objective, the Board established communications with the Elder's Council and this year, in addition to its requirement that proponents of any wildlife regulation proposal must have consulted with First Nations, the Board has added the condition that the proponent demonstrate that efforts have been made to acquire relevant traditional knowledge regarding the proposal.

In an effort to provide some guidance and momentum to the use of traditional knowledge in fish and wildlife management, in April 1998, the Board's Traditional Knowledge Working Group coordinated 'Two Eyes: One Vision' - a traditional knowledge conference which combined the insights of elders with real life examples of how such knowledge is being used in fish and wildlife management in the Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions. The conference proved to be very effective in increasing the awareness of the Yukon public and government about the value of traditional knowledge plus workable techniques for acquiring such information and using it properly. One important outcome of the conference is that, in preparing and implementing integrated wildlife management plans for particular Traditional Territories, it has become a standard policy that the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources and the First Nation work cooperatively to document traditional knowledge as a necessary first step in producing such plans.

At the Department of Renewable Resource's request, the Board is also working on a traditional knowledge protocol to guide the proper collection, property rights and use of such information in fish and wildlife management planning. This protocol will be designed in cooperation with the Council of Yukon First Nations which is preparing umbrella guidelines for traditional knowledge research and use throughout the Yukon.

N. Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The YPAS is a government initiative. The Board has followed the development of this strategy closely. The Board's main objectives are to ensure that wildlife concerns are a primary element in the strategy and that the UFA obligations of Chapter 10, referring to Special Management Areas, are adhered to.

O. Bill C-65, An Act Respecting the Protection of Wildlife Species in Canada from Extirpation or Extinction

In the Yukon it is the Board's mandate to recommend management of species so that they do not become endangered. In September of 1995, Environment Canada with an invitation to comment on the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act contacted the Board. On January 28,1997 the Board made a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. In it's submission; the Board addressed its points on consultation, jurisdiction, and habitat protection.

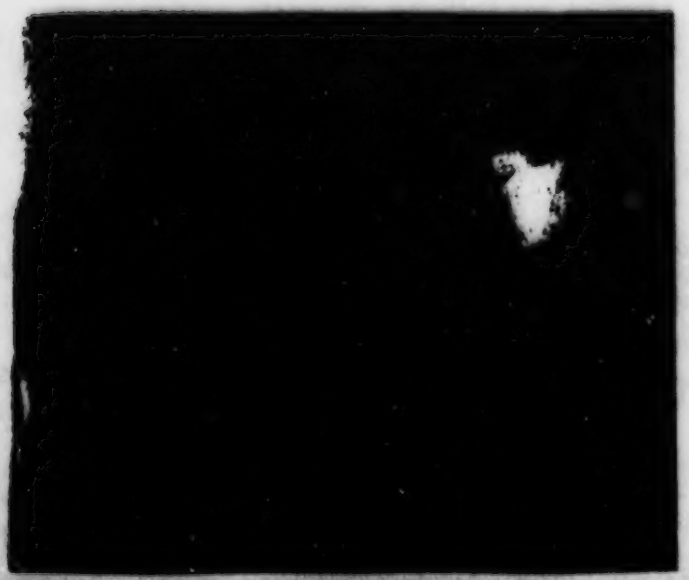
The Board also supported the concept of the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act and recognized the importance of introducing legislation that will protect endangered species and their habitat. However, along with other stakeholders in the Yukon Territory, the Board had concerns with Bill C-65 and wanted to address them.

Due to the Federal election last year, this Bill died on the Order paper when Parliament was dissolved. It could be revived at the same stage in a new parliament, if all parties agree, or a new Bill may be drafted. The Board is actively working on the development of endangered species legislation both for Canada and Yukon.

Conferences and Workshops

The following conferences and workshops were attended by Board representatives over the past year:

1. Council For Yukon First Nations Boards and Committees - November 4-6, 1997, Whitehorse, YK
2. Traditional Knowledge Conference - April 1-3, 1998, Whitehorse, YK
3. Development Assessment Workshop - May 21-23, 1997, Whitehorse, YK
4. Yukon Protected Areas Strategy - May 29-30, 1997, Whitehorse, YK
5. Council for Yukon First Nations 17TH AGA - July 2-4, 1997, Lake Laberge, YK
6. Sustainable Development - July 10, 1997, Whitehorse, YK
7. Partners in Flight - August 6-10, 1997, Vancouver, BC
8. Habitat Conference - September 15-19, 1997, Vernon, BC
9. Building Bridges Across Borders - September 29-October 1, 1997, Dawson City, YK
10. Yukon Forest Strategy - September 16, 1997, Whitehorse, YK
11. First Nation Forestry Workshop - November 17-19, Whitehorse, YK
12. Alsek Moose Management Plan - May 13, 1997, Haines Junction, YK
13. Porcupine Caribou Board Meeting - April 8, 1997, Inuvik, NWT
14. Bison Management Plan - November 8, 1997, Haines Junction, YK



Annual Meeting of Renewable Resources Councils and the Board

According to the Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.15, the Board shall meet no less than annually with the Chairpersons of the Renewable Resources Councils. This year the meeting was held in Whitehorse on April 30, 1998 with the Alsek, Mayo, Teslin, Little Salmon/Carmacks and Vuntut Gwitchin Renewable Resources Councils. Each Council had individual matters that they are dealing with on an ongoing basis and they also expressed common concerns.

At the meeting this year the agenda followed the format of the Recommendations to the Board from the Renewable Resources Councils. These recommendations were made over the past year as follows:

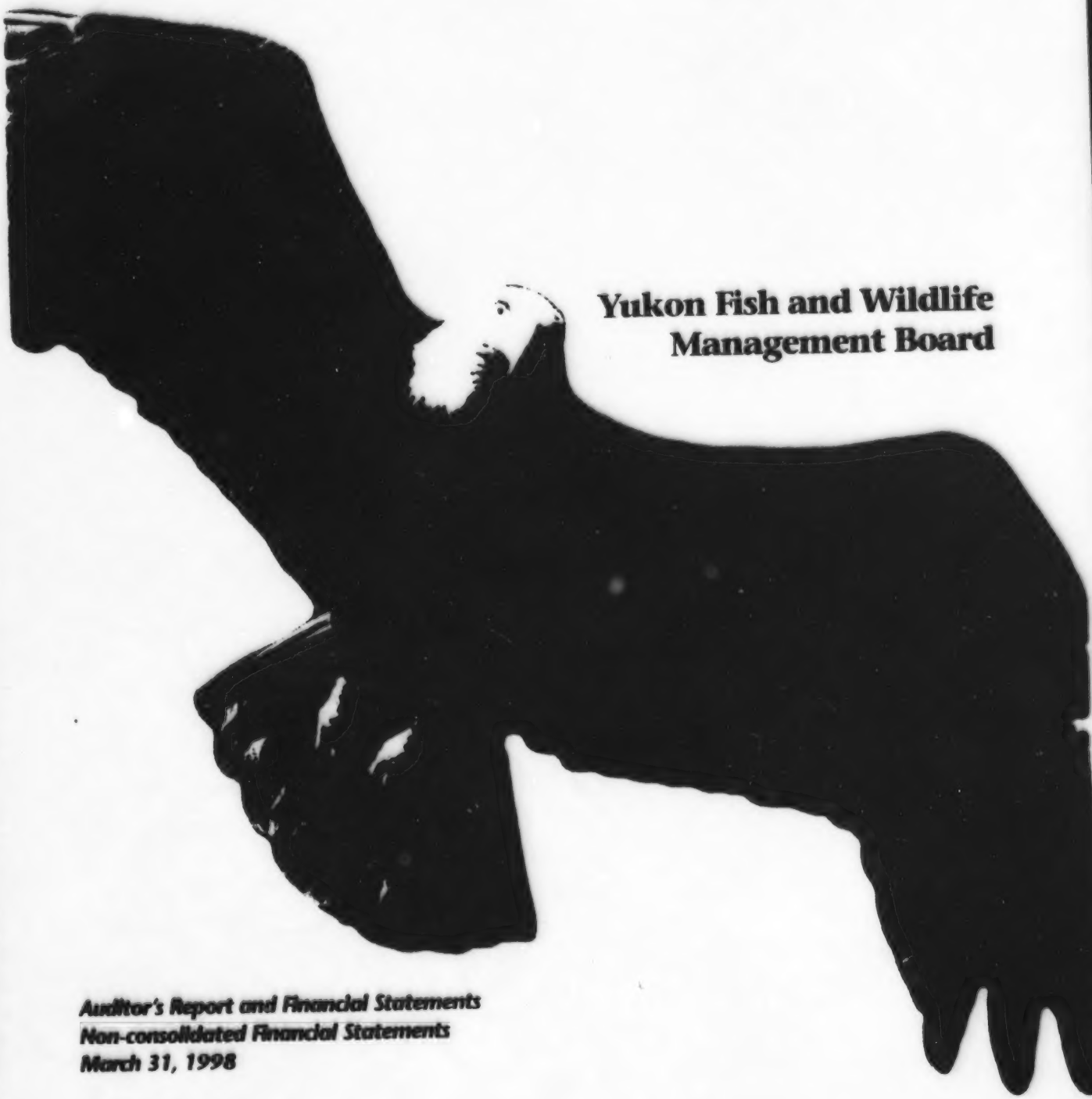
1. Habitat Protection
2. Meat Management by Outfitting Concessions
3. Qualifications for ownership of an Outfitting Concession
4. Off-road-vehicles and Access Management
5. Yukon-wide Catch and Release Policy
6. Enforcement of Trapline Regulations

The Board responded to each of the above recommendations by briefing notes and an update. In most cases, the Board has established working groups which the Renewable Resources Councils participate on.

On the matter of protocol, the Board is seeking an understanding between itself and the RRC's for public consultation on issues that have a territory-wide effect. The Board has an obligation to ensure that any proposal is fair to all Yukoners and to ensure that all Yukoners are given a fair opportunity for consultation. From the Protocol discussion an Issue Screening Framework was developed. This will be reviewed by the RRC's at their meeting in May. A protocol should be in place before the next Regulations Cycle.

With so many new organizations coming on stream it is becoming difficult to keep track of all the recommendations for policy and regulation changes related to fish and wildlife management. The development of a database, which would be available to the RRC's, the Board, and First Nations, was discussed. There was consensus that the RRC secretariats will work with the Department of Renewable Resources to develop a website. This would create more efficiency in sharing and exchanging information

It was noted that the Renewable Resources Council meetings are open to new councils coming on stream. The Board is also available for assistance.



Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Auditor's Report and Financial Statements
Non-consolidated Financial Statements
March 31, 1998

Auditor's Report
Non-Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
Non-Consolidated Statement of Operations
Non-Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Non-Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
Notes to Non-Consolidated Financial Statements

Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

I have audited the non-consolidated statement of financial position of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as at March 31, 1998 and the non-consolidated statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these non-consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 1998 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Chartered Accountant
Whitehorse, Yukon, 1998

J. Kim Tanner, C.A., Ltd.
Chartered Accountant
#207-100 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2A8
PH: (403) 667-4700
FAX: (403) 667-4439

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NON-CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 1998

	1998	1997
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	$ 86,934	$ 85,023
Short term investments	22,238	—
Accounts receivable	3,840	431
GST receivable	4,057	4,326
Prepaid expenses	47,480	—
	164,549	89,780
CAPITAL ASSETS (notes 2 & 3)	45,495	45,941
	$ 210,044	$ 135,721
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 2,702	$2,500
Wages and employee deductions payable	8,779	6,337
Deferred revenue (notes 2d & 4)	153,068	80,943
	164,549	89,780
NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS (notes 2 & 3)	45,495	45,941
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	—	—
	45,495	45,941
	$ 210,044	$ 135,721

APPROVED BY:

Chair

Board Member

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NON-CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

	1998	1997
REVENUE		
Government of Yukon	$503,765	$ 481,591
Applied to Deferred Revenue (note 2d)	(101,068	(80,943)
	402,697	400,648
Rental revenue	5,616	5,616
Reimbursements	4,179	-
Interest income and other	8,036	6,360
	420,528	412,624
EXPENSES		
Administration fees	4,014	5,787
Advertising and promotion	86	404
Annual working groups	4,964	6,209
Bank charges and interest	399	302
Board meetings	151,985	135,289
Board training	11,811	12,072
Communications (note 5)	23,421	29,680
Conferences and workshops	24,179	13,030
Insurance	688	688
Internet	1,444	18
Office supplies, postage and photocopy	6,948	11,790
Professional fees	2,055	4,058
Rent	23,805	23,805
Repairs and maintenance	5,146	3,410
Special projects and working groups	33,114	49,336
Staff training	2,578	16
Telephone and fax	8,383	7,878
Wages and employee benefits	104,306	93,261
	409,326	397,033
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	$ 11,202	$ 15,591

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NON-CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

	Invested in Capital Assets	Unrestricted	Total 1998	Total 1997
BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	$ 45,941	$ -	$ 45,941	$ 41,499
Investment in capital assets	11,202	(11,202)	-	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(11,648)	11,202	(446)	4,442
BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	$ 45,495	$ -	$ 45,495	$ 45,941

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NON-CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

	1998	1997
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash received from Yukon Government	$ 422,822	$ 420,666
Cash received for Traditional Knowledge Conference	52,000	-
Cash received from rent	5,616	5,616
Investment and other income received for operating purposes	8,036	6,360
Cash paid for wages and employee benefits	(101,864)	(88,579)
Cash paid for materials and services	(351,259)	(304,744)
	35,351	39,319
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Disposal of capital assets	3,000	-
Purchase of capital assets	(14,202)	(15,591)
Purchase of short term investments	(22,238)	-
	(33,440)	(15,591)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	1,911	23,728
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	85,023	61,295
CASH AT END OF YEAR	$ 86,934	$ 85,023

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was established pursuant to the Umbrella Final Agreement in the Yukon. It acts in the public interest and advises the Government of Yukon, Yukon First Nations and Councils on all matters relating to Fish and Wildlife management legislation, research, policies and programs.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Scope of Financial Statements

Generally accepted accounting principles require that financial statements be prepared on a consolidated basis except in limited circumstances. The assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Salmon Sub-Committee have not been included in these financial statements. This committee, while under the jurisdiction of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board, functions autonomously and copies of their audited financial statements are available separately to all members. It was considered that the non-consolidated basis of presentation was the more informative presentation for the members.

In all other respects, these non-consolidated financial statements are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for non-profit organizations.

b) Capital Assets and Investments in Capital Assets

Amortization of capital assets is provided at rates sufficient to amortize the cost over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Equipment is amortized using the declining balance method at the rates set out in note 2. Leasehold improvements are being amortized on a straight line basis over 5 years. Net assets invested in Capital Assets reflects the amortized cost of all capital assets owned by the Board.

c) Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents monies received in the current year which are available to cover expenses in the next fiscal year. Any monies not expensed by the end of the five year contribution agreement with the Government of Yukon are repayable to the Government of Yukon. The contribution agreement expires on March 31, 1999.

d) Short Term Investments

Short term investments are shown at the lower of cost and market value of the investments.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

		1998			1997
	Rate	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Net
Furniture & equipment	20%	$ 50,653	$ 17,192	$ 33,461	$ 31,116
Computer equipment	30%	16,986	8,219	8,768	10,483
Leasehold improvement	1/5 SL.	6,308	3,042	3,266	4,342
		$ 73,947	$ 28,453	$ 45,495	$ 45,941

4. DEFERRED REVENUE

	1998	1997
Traditional Knowledge Conference	$ 52,000	$ -
Government of Yukon Contribution Agreement	101,068	80,943
	$ 153,068	$ 80,943

The Government of Yukon contribution agreement expires on March 31, 1999.
Any monies not expensed by the end of this five year agreement are repayable to the Government of Yukon.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

NOTES TO NON-CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998

5. COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications activities occurred during the year.

	1998	1997
Annual report	$ 7,920	$ 12,874
Proposed regulation changes	9,592	2,582
New logo	-	6,944
Promotional items	4,016	5,282
Open house	1,013	1,574
Miscellaneous	880	424
	$ 23,421	$ 29,680

6. HONORARIA

Honoraria to board members were paid out for meetings and various activities. Total honoraria paid out were:

	1998	1997
Annual working groups	$ 2,970	$ 5,758
Board meetings	102,673	97,004
Board training	6,000	5,300
Conferences and workshops	12,153	7,300
Special projects and working groups	17,233	23,813
	$ 141,029	$ 139,175

Board Resolutions

Resolution 1-97:
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
June 13, 1997

Re: Proclamation of 1992 Amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act

Whereas, Section 16.7.1 of the Umbrella Final Agreement establishes the Fish and Wildlife Management Board as the "primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife Management in he Yukon", and

Whereas, in numerous consultations with the Yukon public it is clear that the present lack of legal forms of habitat protection is confounding many community-based and territorial- wide fish and wildlife management initiatives, and

Whereas, the first objective (16.1.1.1) of Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement is, "to ensure Conservation in the management of all Fish and Wildlife resources and their habitats", and

Whereas, fulfilment of objective 16.1.1.1 is not possible without appropriate habitat protection legislation in the Yukon Wildlife Act, and

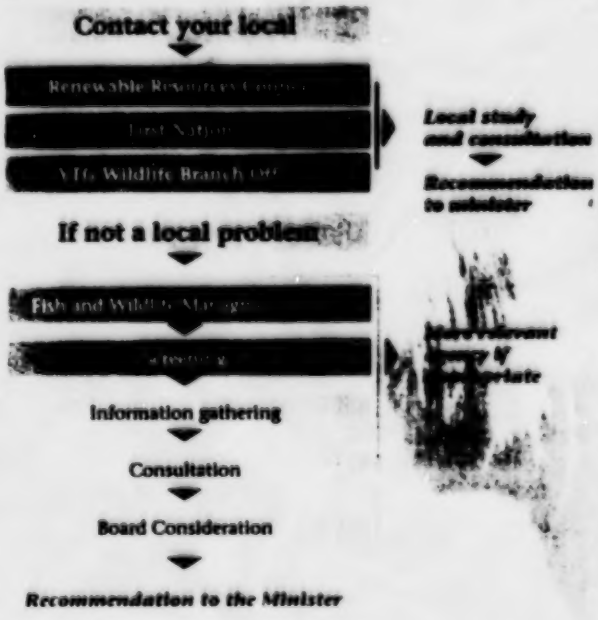
Whereas, achieving legal means of protecting fish and wildlife habitats has been the paramount objective of the Board since its inception, and

Whereas, partial fulfilment of objective 16.1.1.1 would be to proclaim pertinent sections of the 1992 Amendments to the Wildlife Act,

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board urges the Government of the Yukon, at the earliest possible opportunity to proclaim Section 138.3, parts (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of the Act to Amend the Wildlife Act assented to on June 2, 1992 and recorded in Chapter 15 of the Statutes of the Yukon, and

Further be it resolved, that the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board urges that Sections 9 and 10 of the same amendment also be proclaimed.

If you see a management problem



APPENDIX A:

UFA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OBLIGATIONS

MANDATE:

A Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be established, as of the effective date of Settlement Legislation, as the primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in the Yukon (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.1).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board, acting in the public interest and consistent with this chapter and taking into consideration all relevant factors including recommendations of the Councils, may make recommendations to the Minister, to Yukon First Nations and to the Councils, on all matters related to Fish and Wildlife management, Legislation, research, policies, and programs (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.11).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board may make recommendations pursuant to Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.12.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be comprised of twelve members.

Yukon shall nominate six members, one of whom shall be selected in consultation and concurrence with Canada (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.2).

Yukon First Nations shall nominate six members, by causing the Council for Yukon Indians to make the nominations on behalf of Yukon First Nations after consultation with Yukon First Nations (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.2).

The Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint the nominees to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 2.12.2.3, 2.12.2.4).

The majority of representatives of Government and the majority of representatives of Yukon First Nations shall be Yukon residents (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.4).

One third of the initial appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be made for three years, one third for four years, and one-third for five years.

Thereafter, appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be for five years (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.5).

All appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be during good behaviour (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.5).

The provisions of Umbrella Final Agreement UFA 2.12.2 shall apply to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

OPERATIONS:

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall determine its own procedures for selecting its chairperson from its membership (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3).

The Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint the chairperson selected by the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3).

In the event that the Fish and Wildlife Management Board fails to select a chairperson within 60 days of the position being vacant, the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources shall appoint a chairperson from the membership of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board after consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.3.1).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall be accountable to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources for its expenditures (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.8).

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall prepare an annual budget, subject to approval by the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources. The budget approval process will respect the Board's discretion over the allocation of funds to be available to the Board under the Plan (Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.9).

ACTIVITIES:

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall establish the Salmon Sub-Committee pursuant to Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.17 at its initial meeting or as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board shall undertake activities pursuant to its obligations as set out in Chapter 16, and its obligations in Chapter 27, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust.

APPENDIX B:

SCREENING PROCESS:

The screening process of the Board is used to sort out the issues that the Board can deal with and to make sure other problems are brought to the attention of appropriate agencies. It is also used to make sure that all the information the Board needs is available when a matter is considered.

The Screening Committee is made up of the Chair of the Board, two members serving on a rotating basis, and other members of the Board whom are available to attend. All members of the Board have regular opportunities to participate in the Committee's activities. The Committee is assisted by the Board's Secretariat and draws advice from whatever sources it considers appropriate, including Renewable Resources Councils, the Department of Renewable Resources, First Nations, Elders, interest groups or people proposing initiatives.

In considering matters that have been referred to the Board, the Screening Committee wants to learn:

- if there is a widely shared perception that there is a problem;
- if the problem can be
  - confirmed by the observations of trappers, hunters or others out on the land,
  - supported by biological or technical data,
  - supported by traditional knowledge; and

If it is a conservation or allocation problem that puts fish, wildlife or habitat at risk or if it affects the fish and wildlife.

Screening in Brief - The Basic Questions.

WHAT do people think the problem is?
(Is it really a problem?)

WHY do they think it is a problem?
(Is something a threat to wildlife? Are people unhappy with the allocation to users?)

WHERE is the problem?
(Is it confined to one traditional territory, or does it affect the whole Territory?)

WHO should be doing something about it?
(Is it really the Board's business?)

The Committee also needs to determine if matters that people want the Board to consider fall within its primary jurisdiction. One of the objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Chapter of the Agreement is to develop responsibilities for renewable resource management at the local level. Renewable Resources Councils, where they exist, are the primary instrument for regional wildlife management and a protocol worked out between the Board and Councils ensures that the Board will not attempt to deal with regional matters unless asked to by a Council.

When faced with regional matters that have clear territorial repercussions, the Board is committed to cooperating with Councils to develop approaches and solutions, which will work at both levels.

It is important to remember that some issues forwarded to the Board may be better dealt with by other agencies or by combinations of co-management partners. In these instances, the Screening Committee attempts to identify appropriate partners or lead players and may make recommendations to the Board on who is best equipped to deal with a given problem.

Where Councils are not yet in place, the Board has encouraged local efforts to develop consensus on issues before it wades in. In some cases it has done so by assigning members to monitor or participate in community initiatives to develop approaches to problems. An example has been Board involvement with the committee working on the decline in sheep populations in the Kluane Region.

In general, people or groups who have identified problems are encouraged to work with regional biologists, the First Nation and any trapping, fishing, hunting and conservation organizations in their community to develop common understanding of matters.

Screening in Brief - the answers which trigger Board Action

If the Steering Committee's review of a matter shows:

- that there is a significant problem related to fish and wildlife or habitat;
- that it has trans-regional or territorial importance or that there is no local or regional agency that can deal with it; and
- that the Board has the jurisdiction to make recommendations to the Minister or another agency which has jurisdiction,

then the Screening Committee can recommend that the

Board should deal with the problem.

In making that kind of recommendation, the Committee looks at the conservation values associated with the problem, the Board's workplan and long term priorities, and the priority placed on the matter by its co-management partners.

Before the Committee can recommend when a problem should be dealt with, it also looks at whether there is enough information available to the Board to make a decision. If information is lacking, the Committee attempts to outline what information is needed and what work needs to be done before the entire Board can schedule a matter for detailed consideration.

The Board may also set up working teams on issues, which require detailed study.

Different problems may suggest different solutions ranging from educational initiatives to new or amended legislation, policies or management plans. Some specific measures, such as the setting of Total Allowable Harvest levels when wildlife required for subsistence are at critical levels, are specifically provided for in Final Agreements. Year to year harvesting adjustments is usually made by regulation changes.

Examples of Board approaches to specific problems are found throughout this report.

Research Tools

The Board has a number of technical tools it can use to gather and interpret the information needed to deal with issues. These include:

- consultation
- the collection of traditional and local knowledge
- scientific studies or research
- social studies or research including surveys
- legal advice; and
- management advice.

The Board uses some of these tools directly while co-management partners the Resource Councils and the Department most effectively uses others. Still other may be used on a contract basis required.

APPENDIX C- TRUST FUND

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST

General

During this year the Trustees continued to refine the operating procedures for the Trust and in Fall of 1997, they approved the hiring of an Executive Director to carry out the detailed management and administration of the Trust under direction of the Trust Committee.

Financial

In February 1998 the fourth and final scheduled payments into the Trust were received from the Government of Canada, Council of Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Territorial Government.

The Trust now stands at $3,466,212.50 which is invested in Government securities and guaranteed fixed deposits. The Trust will only fund Projects and cover management and administrative expenses from the interest on the invested funds, after deducting an allowance for inflation to maintain the initial value of the Trust capital. The total interest earned from fiscal year 94/95 to 97/98 was $170,972. Therefore about $145,000 will be available for 98/99 Projects.

Call for Proposals

The Call was made through the newspapers and radio announcements and was sent directly to First Nations, Municipal Governments and Non-Government Organizations. The deadline for submission of Project Proposals to the Trust was March 6/98.

26 Proposals were received encompassing the following project categories:

4 - Public Environmental/Conservation Education
2 - ATV Use and Management Policy Review
5 - Wildlife (Mammals)/Wildlife Habitat Research/Management
2 - Baseline Habitat Data/Information Gathering and Assessment
2 - Bird/Bird Habitat Management
5 - Fish/Fish Habitat Research/Management
1 - Fish Catch-and-Release Mortality Study
1 - Forestry Biodiversity Research/Management
2 - Traditional Knowledge Collection/Use

1 - Recreational Development with Spin-off Fish

Habitat Enhancement

1 - Solid Waste/Habitat Survey

Proposal Review Committee

The Proposal Review Committee was struck at the January 98 Trustee meeting. This Committee was charged with reviewing and rating all proposals and getting expert technical review done on proposals that were beyond the expertise of the Committee members. A Project Selection Meeting was scheduled for May 198.

Contacting the Trust

Please direct all requests for information about the Trust to:

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